

Legislative Update

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 20, 2015

Highlights from Week 7:

The focus of the Nevada State Legislature this week was clearly on revenue with two lengthy hearings on Governor Sandoval's tax plan, known as the BLF (Business License Fee). This focus was unusual in at least two ways: first, that we're not even halfway through the session and serious consideration of funding is taking place; and second, the bill was introduced by Governor Sandoval himself, followed by three former governors who offered their bipartisan support of his plan. This week's hearings have not been cursory conversations, but in-depth discussions: a 9-hour hearing was held on Wednesday, followed by a 3-hour Committee of the Whole on Thursday.

Here's the day-by-day summary of the past week:

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Assembly Committee on Education

- ~ **AB234** – This bill requires the Department of Education to create a program of multicultural education. Assemblyman Munford has been trying for many sessions to get this bill through the Legislature. The bill does not mandate what should be taught in class, but instead, leaves it up to the State Board of Education to create standards that will then be delivered to the local school district.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Joint K-12 Subcommittee

- ~ The Department of Education presented their budget for the final time this legislative session to the Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Subcommittee of K-12. The hearing covered many of the new programs Governor Sandoval introduced in his State of the State address as the reforms needed for a "New Nevada." Some of the major issues covered were the Governor's initiative on expanding the Advance Placement program as well as the increase in funding for social workers in schools.

Additionally, the Nevada Department of Education presented their department budget on the following programs:

- NDE - Standards and Instructional Support (101-2675) K-12 EDUCATION-74
- NDE - Assessments and Accountability (101-2697) K-12 EDUCATION-87
- NDE - Educator Licensure (101-2705) K-12 EDUCATION-98
- NDE - Office of Early Learning and Development (101-2709) K-12 EDUCATION-126
- NDE - Student and School Support (101-2712) K-12 EDUCATION-135
- NDE - Literacy Programs (101-2713) K-12 EDUCATION-148
- NDE - Data Systems Management (101-2716)

These budgets included all department costs associated with the management of these programs. The presentation given by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (*NDE Budget Presentation 3-17-15*) is attached.

Senate Education

- ~ **SB220**, sponsored by Senator Woodhouse on behalf of the Nevada Youth Legislature, was heard by the Senate Committee on Education. Two Nevada Youth Legislators (who are also CCSD students), Evan Gong from SECTA and Kyle Walker from ATECH, presented the bill which would require financial literacy instruction in mathematics classes in both middle and high schools. The bill was supported by a number of financial institutions.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

- ~ **SB219**, a bill that would require insurance companies to cover, and offer at lowered co-pays, prescription drugs that help prevent opiate addiction. The sponsor of the bill, Dr. Joe Hardy, is seeking an amendment to the bill that will not mandate how insurance companies cover the drug; however, many insurance companies did oppose the bill, as it doesn't give them the flexibility they currently enjoy in covering prescription drugs.

Assembly Judiciary

- ~ **AB148**, the bill that would allow concealed carry permit holders to carry their weapons on the campuses of higher education institutions, public and private schools, and day care centers, as well as unsecured areas of airports, was amended and passed in the work session of the Assembly Judiciary Committee on Wednesday. The District was successful in getting public and private schools and day care centers removed from the bill for carrying weapons. The amendment adopted by the Committee also incorporated the language of **AB2** into the bill.

Joint Senate Revenue and Economic Development and Assembly Taxation

- ~ **SB252** – In an unusual move, all other committee meetings were canceled and the largest hearing room in the building was used for the hearing on SB252, augmented by two overflow rooms. Governor Sandoval kicked off the presentation of his tax plan, followed by supporting testimony from former Governors List, Bryan and Miller. The nuts and bolts of the plan were presented by Jeremy Aguero, principal of Applied Analysis; Deonne Contine, Director of Department of Taxation; and Chris Nielsen, Governor Sandoval's Deputy Chief of Staff.

Following the lengthy, detailed presentations, Chairman Roberson entertained several hours of public input, including an impressive line-up of notable community leaders who spoke in favor, as well as numerous opponents. If you'd like to view all or parts of the hearing yourself, it can be found at http://nvleg.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=14&clip_id=3825.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Senate Committee of the Whole

- ~ **SB252** – Senator Roberson again devoted a lengthy hearing to the Governor's tax plan with the purpose of providing an opportunity for an "in-depth give and take" discussion for members of the Senate. The same three expert witnesses who presented the bill details in the hearing on Wednesday were on hand to answer questions from the Senate. Senator Roberson announced that the purpose of the meeting was to "get into the weeds and get issues addressed." For those interested in hearing the in-depth discussion, please visit http://nvleg.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=14&clip_id=3845.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Senate Committee on Education heard two bills, both sponsored by Senator Don Gustavson:

- ~ **SB228** – This bill would require parent authorization for school districts to disseminate any type of student data. The Clark County School District has some concerns with the bill. As presented, SB228 would make it difficult to abide by the student accountability laws that are currently in place. Moreover, requiring parent consent on every piece of data would make the day-to-day operations of a school site very difficult.
- ~ **SB287** – This bill would require school districts to teach cursive handwriting to every student in elementary school. Currently, cursive writing is not in the standards taught throughout the state.

By the Numbers:

253: Number of bills currently on the CCSD tracking list. Of these 253 bills:

- 134 are Senate bills
- 119 are Assembly bills
- 33 have passed the first committee
- 5 have passed the first house
- 3 have been signed into law (SB101, 119, and 207)

Coming Up:

To keep current about hearings that are scheduled (and sometimes rescheduled) during the session, it's important to utilize the "Calendar of Meetings" link on the Nevada Legislature website (www.leg.state.nv.us). There you will find the most accurate list of committee meeting dates and times as well as the bills scheduled to be heard.

Bill	Description	Next Meeting Title	Next Meeting Date
AB54	Revises provisions relating to local governments existing in a severe financial emergency. (BDR 31-308)	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs -- Work Session Item	3/23/2015 8:30 AM
AB180	Revises provisions governing the biennial audit requirements for the Public Employees' Retirement System. (BDR 23-569)	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor -- Work Session Item	3/23/2015 12:00 PM
AB229	Revises provisions governing workers' compensation. (BDR 53-754)	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor	3/23/2015 12:00 PM
SB297	Revises certain provisions relating to redevelopment plans. (BDR 22-1028)	Senate Committee on Government Affairs	3/23/2015 1:00 PM
AB197	Revises provisions governing out-of-school-time and seasonal or temporary recreation programs. (BDR 38-506)	Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services	3/23/2015 3:00 PM
AB218	Revises provisions relating to emergencies in schools. (BDR 34-666)	Assembly Committee on Education	3/23/2015 3:15 PM
AB221	Revises provisions relating to data concerning pupils. (BDR 34-147)	Assembly Committee on Education	3/23/2015 3:15 PM

AB395	Revises provisions relating to the State Public Charter School Authority. (BDR 34-902)	Assembly Committee on Education	3/23/2015 3:15 PM
SB236	Revises provisions relating to the Advisory Council on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. (BDR 34-655)	Senate Committee on Education	3/24/2015 3:30 PM
AB289	Directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a committee to conduct an interim study concerning issues related to the provision of mental health services. (BDR S-693)	Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections	3/24/2015 4:00 PM
AB332	Makes various changes concerning government purchasing and bidding. (BDR 28-256)	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	3/25/2015 8:00 AM
AB182	Revises provisions relating to collective bargaining by local government employers. (BDR 23-646)	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor	3/25/2015 1:30 PM
AB249	Makes various changes relating to collective bargaining. (BDR 23-521)	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor	3/25/2015 1:30 PM
SB403	Revises provisions relating to elections. (BDR 24-799)	Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections	3/25/2015 3:30 PM
AB322	Prohibits the smoking of tobacco inside any motor vehicle in which a child under the age of 18 years is present. (BDR 15-128)	Assembly Committee on Judiciary	3/26/2015 8:00 AM
AB170	Revises provisions governing general obligations. (BDR 30-917)	Assembly Committee on Government Affairs	3/27/2015 8:00 AM
AB336	Revises provisions governing human trafficking. (BDR 52-166)	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor	3/27/2015 1:30 PM
AB6	Revises provisions relating to autism spectrum disorders. (BDR 54-67)	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor -- Work Session Item	3/27/2015 1:30 PM
AB72	Revises provisions governing state professional licensing boards. (BDR 54-161)	Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor -- Work Session Item	3/27/2015 1:30 PM

Attachments

This update references the following materials which are attached to the email:

- *NDE Budget Presentation 3-17-15*
- *CCSD Legislation Status Report 3-20-15*
- *120-day_calendar*

Want to Learn More?

In case you didn't know: How the legislative calendar works.

The Nevada Legislature is unique in how it operates. Its process is truly its own. At this point in the session you may have notice the sheer volume of bills that have been introduced, and soon, will be heard before their respective committees. Was this sudden bill dump expected or was this some high-powered political move by the *powers that be* to muddy the legislative waters?

Thankfully, the answer is the former.

The reason so many bills have been introduced this week can be explained by examining the legislative calendar. (See the attachment, *120-day_calendar*.) Key dates and deadlines throughout the session move the process along, but also create what can only be described as “controlled chaos.”

The Nevada Legislature just passed its first major deadline, what is generally called “Legislator Bill Introduction.” This deadline requires that any bill that an individual legislator wants to be heard by a committee must be written and introduced by midnight of day 43 of the legislative session. Any BDR that misses this deadline is considered dead.

This will not be the only time the Nevada Legislature will experience a mad rush to meet a deadline. With the implementation of the 120-day calendar, these deadlines ensure the work of the legislature is done (mostly) on time. Mostly? Yes, because just as the 120-day calendar was adopted by the legislature as the framework for doing business, but they also have the ability to change it, even mid-process. Case in point is the deadline we’ve been talking about. It became apparent that the bill drafters could not finalize all of the bill draft requests they had received from individual legislators by the Monday deadline. The legislative body took action and extended the deadline by one day. As a result, in multiple floor sessions on Monday and Tuesday, a total of 248 new bills were introduced.

Additional dates you should be aware of that may cause just as much chaos as we have seen this week.

- March 23rd, Committees’ Bill Introductions.
This is the deadline for committees to introduce legislation.
- April 10th, First Committee Passage.
This deadline requires that all bills (excluding those exempt from this rule) must pass their assigned committee.
- April 21st, First House Passage:
All bills (excluding those exempt from this rule) must pass their house of origin
- May 15th, Committee Passage (Second House)
This deadline requires that all bills (excluding those exempt from this rule) must pass their assigned committee of the 2nd house.
- May 22nd, Second House Passage
All bills (excluding those exempt from this rule) must pass the 2nd house.
- June 1st, Close of session (“Sine Die”)

Any bill that fails to meet these deadlines, unless they are exempt, will be considered dead.